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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 20 | Humidity 76% Light rain Sensex 80,559 | Nifty 24,565 | Gold 99,040 | Silver 1,10,387 | Dollar 87.24 | Euro 100.84 | GBP 115.79

NET LOSS

With over 424% rise in incidents between 2021 and 2024 in K'taka, state is number 3 in country in terms of cybercrime

PAGE 2

FLEX TALK

Over-enthusiastic followers of politicians continue putting up posters with no care for HC orders or damage to roads, environment

PAGE 7

Activists welcome Centre's directive to set up dedicated facilities for elderly and disabled prisoners, but burgeoning prison population and fact that India's jails are 131% over capacity remains worrying

RAISE THE BAR, BEHIND BARS

K'taka constructing 4 new prisons, one in B'luru

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Union Home Ministry's fresh directives to prison departments across the country, urging them to implement dedicated facilities for elderly and disabled prisoners has been welcomed all around. However, activists still speak of the need to address one major sticking point: Overcrowding of jails.

Concerns have been mounting over overcrowding and the rising incidence of mental and physical health issues among inmates.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the prison population in India has grown by 28% since 2016. From 4.33 lakh inmates in 2016, the number rose to 5.54 lakh by 2021. Notably, undertrial prisoners surged by 45.8%, while those in judicial custody increased by over 12%. Convicted prisoners stood at 1.22 lakh, with 3,470 sentenced to death and 547 falling under other categories.

A 2025 national report also warned that India's prison population is currently 131% over capacity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Many elderly inmates live with age-related weaknesses, and disabled prisoners often go without even basic support. This initiative has the potential to bring back a sense of dignity for those who are most often ignored

—Narasimha Murthy, lawyer and rights activist

DRY DAYS

Bengaluru misses July rainfall mark by wide margin

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Despite high hopes after a disappointing June, July turned out to be another underwhelming month for Bengaluru in terms of rainfall, falling significantly short of the monthly average. According to data shared by Namma Karnataka Weather Update on X, the city recorded just 87 mm of rainfall in July, against the normal of 113 mm based on the 1981–2010 average—marking a clear deficit of approximately 23%.

Several other parts of the city mirrored this shortfall: HAL recorded 77 mm, Gottigere 90 mm, Kengeri 85 mm, Yeshwanthpur 73 mm, Uttarahalli 80 mm, KR Puram 59 mm, Yelahanka 82 mm, KIAL 80 mm, and Begur 73 mm. The outskirts also reflected mixed but mostly deficient performance with Sarjapura (55 mm), Devanahalli (68 mm), and Nelamangala (74 mm) trailing well below par, though Anekal stood out with 120 mm and Kanakapura with a respectable 86 mm.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Fandom of the opera

Conductor Maria Badstue, soprano Cheryl Bains, tenor Alok Kumar, and the musicians of the South Asian Symphony Orchestra are presenting 'Peace Notes: An Evening at the Opera', an evening of gorgeous music, intensity, drama, and emotion. **Where: Christ University Auditorium, SG Palya; When: August 2, 5 pm**

02 Classical reverie

The Press Club of Bangalore is presenting an enchanting musical night featuring a soulful veena classical performance by the acclaimed artists Bala Tripura Sundari and GY Padma Team, offering a serene evening of melody and tradition. **Where: Press Club of Bangalore, Cubbon Park; When: August 2, 6.30 pm**

03 Soulful music

Windmills is presenting an immersive weekend of live music featuring Katya Krishnan, a Singapore-based South Asian singer-songwriter, known for her emotionally rich performances and genre-bending sound, Katya blends R&B, pop, folk, and rock through soulful vocals and raw storytelling. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: August 1 and 2, 7 pm**

04 Dance devotion

Thejanrithyam Temple for Performing Arts is presenting 'Salangai Poojai' by disciples of Natya Mayuri Guru and Smt Thejaswini Balaji. **Where: Prabhath Kaladwaraka, Koramangala; When: August 10, 10.30 am**

05 Rhythm and rhyme

Atta Galatta is presenting the 9th edition of the Bengaluru Poetry Festival with an interesting mix of poetry performances, explorations of the connections between poetry and music, discussions about poetry, and opportunities to learn through performances and interactive sessions. **Where: Indiranagar Sangeetha Sabha, Indiranagar; When: August 2 and 3**

Karnataka witnesses surge in cybercrime

Over 1 lakh cases recorded in 2025 so far underscores urgent need for stronger digital safety frameworks, public awareness campaigns, and better enforcement mechanisms

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Cybercrime in Karnataka has witnessed a staggering rise of over 424 per cent between 2021 and 2024, as per data from the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP). The number of reported incidents surged from 19,609 cases in 2021 to a whopping 1,69,384 cases in 2024. This dramatic increase highlights the growing vulnerability of the state, especially its urban centres like Bengaluru, to cyber threats amidst rapid digitisation and tech adoption.

According to Rajya Sabha data, the state recorded 51,993 incidents in 2022, more than double the previous year's count. This trend continued in 2023, with 94,038 cases being reported, and peaked in 2024 with an all-time high of 1,69,384 cases. Even in the first half of 2025, the state has already reported 1,02,896 cases, indicating that the year could surpass previous records if the trend continues.

Karnataka amongst top 3 in cybercrime

Karnataka's rise in cybercrime figures has also positioned it amongst the top three states in the country in terms of total cybercrime cases reported annually. In 2021, the state stood 6th in the national ranking. By 2022, it climbed to the 4th position, and since 2023, Karnataka has consistently remained in the top 3, trailing only behind Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra—two of India's most populous and digitally active states.

The state's share of total cybercrime cases in India also reflects its growing burden. While Karnataka accounted for about 4.3 per cent of total cybercrime incidents in 2021, its contribution jumped to approximately 7.6 per cent in 2022, 5.9 per cent in 2023, and 7.4 per cent in 2024, based on national totals for each year. The state's share in 2025 so far stands at 8.2 per cent, higher than several other large states.

Growth in percentage terms

From 19,609 cases in 2021 to 1,69,384 in 2024, Karnataka's cybercrime incidents grew by 764 per cent over a four-year period. Even comparing 2023 to 2024, there is an 80 per cent year-on-year increase. The half-year data of 2025—1,02,896 cases till June—already equals over 60 per cent of the total cases reported in 2024, signalling an unabated upward trend.

Urgent attention required

The steep and consistent rise in cybercrime in Karnataka underscores the urgent need for stronger digital safety frameworks, public awareness campaigns, and better enforcement mechanisms. With Bengaluru being India's tech capital, the state remains both a prime target for cybercriminals and a critical zone for pioneering digital security interventions. Experts suggest that a multi-agency approach involving state police, CERT-In, and private tech players is essential to curb this digital menace before it spirals further.

Organ donation awareness higher amongst women

As a nationwide campaign for organ donation gains momentum, data reveals that women are more informed and proactive about pledging organs compared to men. According to the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation, as of July 31, over 3.4 lakh individuals across India have registered for organ and tissue donation, with Karnataka ranking third behind Rajasthan and Maharashtra. In Karnataka, Dharwad district leads with 11,225 pledges, followed by Ballari (10,649) and Bengaluru (2,890). Ahead of the 15th Indian Organ Donation Day, Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao announced that a state-level awareness drive, Jeevana Sanjeevini, will be launched in Mangaluru on August 1. **— BMB**

EIMR Business School to host BFF 2.0

EIMEIMR Business School, Bengaluru, will host BFF 2.0 – Bangalore Freshers Fest on August 2 and 3, 2025. The event will feature participation from over 30 colleges in Bengaluru, with an expected footfall of over 1500 attendees. The fest will begin with an opening ceremony at 9.30 am on August 2 at Yuvaka Sangha Auditorium, Jayanagar, featuring entrepreneur and influencer Ishan Sharma as guest speaker. The main competitions—including Creatopreneur, The Traitors, Criminal Justice, and India's Got Latent—will be held throughout both days at the EIMR Business School campus. The event will conclude with a closing ceremony and live musical performance by Souljams on August 3 at 6 pm, at the IndiQube Rooftop near the campus. **— BMB**

Strengthening the quantum ecosystem

The inaugural Quantum India Bengaluru Summit 2025 dazzled the global tech community, attracting representatives from 19 countries. Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology NS Boseraju announced plans to make this groundbreaking summit an annual event, given its resounding success and international interest. Over two days, Nobel laureates, top scientists, and tech leaders delved into transformative quantum trends through 24 sessions. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that the Karnataka Quantum Mission would soon be launched with a fund of Rs 1,000 crore, with the aim of fostering a quantum economy by 2035.

To transform into a global quantum powerhouse, the state plans to introduce a quantum curriculum at the senior primary school level in both English and Kannada through the STREAM Labs initiative. DST PhD fellowships for students will be expanded, supporting capacity-building in critical areas such as quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing, and quantum devices.

With strategic collaborations, infrastructure plans, and deep policy commitment, Karnataka positions itself as a burgeoning quantum hub—bridging imagination and innovation in the race toward a quantum-powered future.

— BMB

Indian Artisans' Haat kicks off at Rangoli Metro Art Centre

SRIDHAR KS

The Indian Artisans' Haat, a vibrant and large-scale celebration of India's traditional craftsmanship, was inaugurated with flair on Friday at the iconic Rangoli Metro Art Centre on Bengaluru's MG Road. MLA and BDA Chairman NA Haris, actress Ragini Dwivedi, and Vijay Karnataka Editor Sudarshan Channangihalli marked the launch by watering a plant, symbolising sustainability and growth. Jointly organised by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror, the expo aims to spotlight India's diverse cultural and artisanal heritage under one roof. Set in a lush, green urban space that also houses a life-size 'snakes and ladders' board and a kids' play area, the venue is designed to be family-friendly and rooted in the theme of eco-conscious living.

The 10-day exhibition features over 80 stalls showcasing handlooms, textiles, jewellery, and decorative items from across India. Visitors can witness live demonstrations of Channapatna toy-making, Lambani embroidery from Sandur, and traditional block printing. Highlights include Bhagalpuri sarees from Bihar, Pattachitra art from Odisha, Mysore paintings, Ajrakh prints from Gujarat, Kashmir handlooms, Manipuri grass bags, and marble carvings from Agra. Products like Khadi from Meerut, Odisha's wooden cookware, terracotta jewellery, and Mysore sandalwood soaps are also available.

The expo doubles as a cultural carnival with daily classical dance and music performances, engaging visitors in India's rich performing arts. Visitors are encouraged to use the Metro to reach the venue as part of a sustainable travel initiative. Actress Ragini Dwivedi praised the effort to unite artisans and buyers, calling it a powerful platform. Editor Sudarshan Channangihalli emphasised the importance of bringing rare crafts to city audiences, while Nagaraj Hundekar, co-founder of And Events, urged citizens to support this celebration of tradition by embracing handmade artistry. Entry is free, and the exhibition runs daily until August 10, with special discounts for shoppers.

— BMB

Prajwal conviction: 'Justice for victim'

JD(S) leader found guilty in initial rape case; sentencing likely today

A Bengaluru Special Court has found Janata Dal (Secular) leader and former MP Prajwal Revanna guilty in the initial rape case filed at the Holenarasipura Rural Police Station in Hassan District.

On April 3, Additional City Civil And Session Judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat had established charges against Revanna, including Sections 376(2)(k), 376(2)(n), 354(A), 354(B), 354(C), 506, 201, and Section 66(e) of the Information Technology Act, encompassing various offences from rape to evidence tampering.

The court has found him guilty on all counts, with the sentencing expected to be announced on Saturday. According to the prosecution, the survivor was employed as domestic help at the Revanna family's farmhouse. The prosecution states that from 2021, during the Covid-19 lockdown, Revanna committed multiple sexual assaults, recording them at various locations. He allegedly

used these recordings to threaten and prevent her from reporting the incidents.

Currently, the SIT is examining three cases against Prajwal, who remains in judicial custody. He was apprehended by the SIT at Bengaluru Airport upon returning from Germany on May 30 last year, in connection with Crime No.107/2024, registered at the Holenarasipura Town Police Station.

The rape case trial against Prajwal commenced at the Special Court of Sessions for criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs on May 2, 2025. With daily hearings, the proceedings concluded on July 18, spanning just over two months. The judge postponed the verdict to Friday from July 30, requiring additional clarification regarding mobile location data and other technical evidence.

The trial was overseen by Judge Santosh Gajanan Bhat, with senior advocates Ashok Nayak and BN Jagadeesha serving as special public prosecutors.

Nayak told reporters that the prosecution presented 26 witnesses and submitted 180 documents. "The main evidence is of the victim, a lady, it was a very very convincing one..." He highlighted that the trial progressed swiftly, reaching its conclusion after 38 adjournments.

"It represents justice for the victim... I also congratulate the SIT team, we relied not only on the oral evidence, but also the digital evidence, technical evidence, DNA report, FSL report. The clothes worn by the victim during the rape were also identified and the Investigation Officer (IO) was successful in seizing the clothes even after three-four years. Also, digital evidence played a role as the accused himself had recorded the video...." he added.

— BMB

Ex-KRIDL clerk's ₹30-cr assets in scanner

Lokayukta officials uncovered assets worth over ₹30 crore belonging to Kalakappa Nidagundi, a former clerk at Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Ltd (KRIDL), whose monthly pay was ₹15,000.

During the raid, officials found 24 houses, four land plots, and 40 acres of agricultural land registered in the names of Nidagundi, his wife, and her brother. They also seized 350 gm gold, 1.5 kg of silver ornaments, and four vehicles. Nidagundi, who joined KRIDL as a daily wager, is accused with ex-engineer ZM Chincholkar of misappropriating ₹72 crore by creating fake bills, documents for 96 projects that were not executed. — BMB

2 arrested in kidnapping and murder of boy

The Hulimavu police arrested two men on Thursday in connection with the kidnapping and murder of a 13-year-old schoolboy, Nischith, whose charred body was found near Bannerghatta. The arrests were made after the accused were traced using phone numbers suspected to be linked to the ransom call received by the victim's family.

The police tracked down the duo, Gurumurthy and Gopalkrishnam, but the arrest turned tense in the early hours of Friday when the accused allegedly attempted to attack the police team near the Bannerghatta-Kaggalipura Road. Acting in self-defence, police fired a total of six rounds. — BMB

Head constable reunites child with parents

Timely intervention by Head Constable Jagadish of Vijayanagar Traffic Police Station helped reunite a young boy with his parents after the child lost his way while returning home on his bicycle around 7 pm on July 31. Jagadish, serving as the station SHO, noticed the boy distressed near the station. Jagadish told BM he saw a boy crying while walking with another boy of the same age, pushing a bicycle alongside him. "I stopped and asked what was wrong. The second boy said the boy had lost his way and couldn't figure out how to get back home." — BMB

Chikkaballapur emerges as new investment hotspot

Affordable plots, proximity to major highways, and future metro and rail projects are making Chikkaballapur a preferred destination for real estate investment and settlement

With Bengaluru's urban sprawl steadily pushing northward, a growing number of homebuyers and investors are now setting their sights on Chikkaballapur.

Located just over 60 km from the city centre and well within reach of the Kempegowda International Airport, this once-sleepy district is witnessing a transformation — fast becoming a magnet for real estate interest.

Chikkaballapur's strategic location along National Highway 44 and its proximity to major upcoming infrastructure projects such as the Peripheral Ring Road, the proposed Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR), and high-speed rail connectivity have only added to its appeal.

For many urban dwellers priced out of central and eastern Bengaluru, this region offers a more affordable and promising alternative.

"Bengaluru is clearly heading north, and Chikkaballapur is now firmly on the radar of serious investors," said Raghavendra Prasad, a real estate consultant operating across North Bengaluru.

"With land rates still relatively modest compared to Devanahalli or Yelahanka, this is the right time to invest before prices surge."

Industry experts agree that Chikkaballapur is benefitting from what they call the "airport effect." Ever since the Kempegowda International Airport started operations, areas in its vicinity — Devanahalli, Bagalur, Doddaballapur — saw exponential real estate growth. Chikkaballapur, being the next logical extension, is now part of the northward expansion.

"Ease of connectivity is key. Once suburban rail and STRR are functional, daily commuting from Chikkaballapur to core Bengaluru will be as easy as travelling within the city

— Shruti Nair, urban planner and infrastructure analyst

Adding to its desirability is the upcoming Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project, with proposed corridors expected to connect the city more efficiently with outlying regions, including Chikkaballapur. "Ease of connectivity is key.

Once suburban rail and STRR are functional, daily commuting from Chikkaballapur to core Bengaluru will be as easy as travelling within the city," said Shruti Nair, an urban planner and infrastructure analyst.

For many families, the promise of cleaner air, less congestion, and more open spaces makes Chikkaballapur an attractive alternative. Tech professional Deepak Shetty, who recently bought a plot near Nandi Hills, said, "Working in Hebbal, I was tired of city traffic and pollution. Chikkaballapur offers me space, views, and future connectivity — all at one-third the cost of a Bengaluru apartment."

Prakash VL

Real estate blueprint eyes inclusive urban growth

Karnataka is poised to lead South India's real estate and economic evolution, according to a joint report released by CBRE South Asia Pvt Ltd and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The report, titled 'Shaping the Future: The Real Estate Vision 2030 for Karnataka and Beyond', highlights the state's strategic role in powering growth through sectors such as Global Capability Centres (GCCs), electric vehicles (EVs), electronics, aerospace, life sciences, and tourism.

Unveiled in Bengaluru, the report event featured Tushar Giri Nath, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Karnataka, Urban Development Department, along with top industry leaders. Among them were Ashwinder R Singh, Core Member of the CII Karnataka Real Estate Conference and Vice Chairman of BCD Group; Rabindra Srikantan, Chairman of the CII Karnataka State Council and MD of ASM Technologies; Gaurav Kumar, MD, Capital Markets & Land, CBRE India; and Dr Prashanth Reddy, Co-Chair, CII Karnataka Real Estate Conference & MD, Fundermax.

Southern cities drive reality

The report highlights the dynamic growth across the five southern states — Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala — which are witnessing a surge in technology adoption, infrastructure investment, and sectoral diversification. Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad continue to lead Southern India's real estate expansion, bolstered by robust infrastructure, strong investor sentiment, and occupier demand. Each city brings unique strengths: Bengaluru in IT and innovation, Chennai in electronics manufacturing and logistics, and Hyderabad in life sciences and biotech.

These metro cities are experiencing heightened interest in premium residential projects, data centres, and warehousing facilities. The region's success is built on a diversified economic base, world-class talent, and proactive governance, making it a magnet for global capital and institutional investments.

Karnataka's $1 trillion vision

Karnataka is charting an ambitious course to become a USD 1 trillion economy by 2032. The report recommends a multi-pronged strategy focusing on the development of Tier II and III cities, robust infrastructure expansion (including transport and digital connectivity), and social amenities like housing, healthcare, and education.

To catalyse innovation, the state must invest heavily in R&D through public-private partnerships and collaborations with premier institutions. Manufacturing growth will hinge on clearly defined district-level sectoral plans in automobiles, pharmaceuticals, and machinery. Tourism and hospitality are also poised for expansion, especially through coastal and eco-tourism initiatives supported by infrastructure and startup incentives.

Sectors booming with potentials

Southern India is rapidly diversifying its real estate landscape across high-growth sectors. The IT/ITeS industry remains the backbone of office space demand in major metros. Life sciences are gaining momentum, especially in Hyderabad and Bengaluru, with a concentration of global R&D centres. Chennai continues to strengthen its position in electronics manufacturing, while data centres and premium housing are seeing increased traction across metros and Tier-II cities alike.

The CBRE-CII report suggests that strategic focus on advanced manufacturing in EVs, semiconductors, and aerospace, alongside smart logistics and urban planning, can further fuel the region's economic momentum. With India eyeing a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047, the southern states are expected to play a defining role.

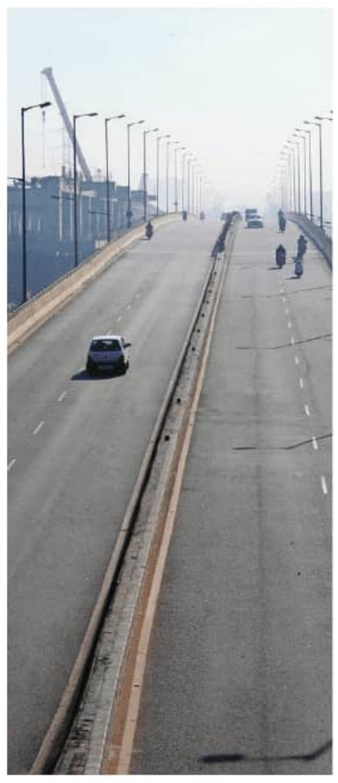
Policy supports fuels growth

In his keynote address, Tushar Giri Nath emphasised the need for holistic and inclusive urban growth in Karnataka. **BMB**

Nelamangala booms as real estate hotspot

Nelamangala Taluk, rapidly developing on par with Bengaluru city, is emerging as one of the most profitable real estate zones in the northern outskirts. Investment in plots around Hurulihalli and nearby areas promises strong future returns.

Located about 40 km from central Bengaluru and close to the proposed new airport project, Nelamangala has become a major hotspot for real estate activity, driven by ongoing infrastructure developments. Its proximity to Tumakuru Tollgate, Magadi Road, and Sondikoppa enhances the area's connectivity appeal.



Ideal residential locations

Nelamangala is surrounded by well-established localities such as Dasanapura, Arasinakunte, Adarsha Nagar, Tumakuru Road, Dabaspet industrial area, and Chikka Madhure Road.

The region supports a thriving base of small and medium industries, creating ample employment opportunities. A logistics park located about 11 km from Nelamangala is also contributing to the region's growth trajectory.

The vicinity is dotted with reputed educational institutions like Orchid International, QNI Convent, Ratan Memorial, and healthcare centres including MS Ramaiah Harsha Hospital and Peoples Sri Hospital.

These civic and social amenities are adding to Nelamangala's attractiveness for families and professionals alike.

Excellent connectivity

Nelamangala also benefits from its proximity to major malls, restaurants, and lifestyle hubs. Kempegowda International Airport is just 52 km away, while the Nagsandra Metro Station, currently 14 km distant, is set to extend toward Kadabagere, further enhancing connectivity.

A real estate expert noted, "Nelamangala is part of the proposed satellite town plan. With the metro, railway, and other high-tech systems improving, this region is ideal for both homebuyers and long-term investors." **–Prakash VL**

Civic polls likely before December under GBA

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar confirms GBA election groundwork, including ward delimitation, will be completed before December 1 to enable timely civic polls

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Many realtors are looking forward for year-end as Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D K Shivakumar announced that all necessary preparations for holding civic elections under the proposed Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) would be completed before December 1, 2025. He confirmed that the government will file an affidavit in the Supreme Court within the next three to four days, outlining the roadmap for conducting the long-pending corporation elections.

Shivakumar said, "We've already held discussions with officials of the Greater Bengaluru Authority. Directions have been issued to complete all preparatory processes — including ward delimitation and resolution of public objections — well ahead of the December deadline. I urge all party leaders to start gearing up for elections in their respective wards."

The move is seen as a step toward enhancing governance and decentralising urban administration under the new GBA framework. The elections, once held, are expected to pave the way for a more structured and accountable civic administration, especially across the rapidly expanding urban peripheries.

There is a demand for inclusion of peripheral zones under the GBA jurisdiction, urban planning and service delivery are likely to become more integrated and efficient.

Officials and urban planners believe this will bridge the development gap between Bengaluru's core and its outer zones. **BMB**

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Garbage segregation near homes triggers public anger

Locals in Pulikeshi Nagar complain of foul odour, leachate leaks, and health hazards from roadside garbage segregation; urge BSWML to shift the location

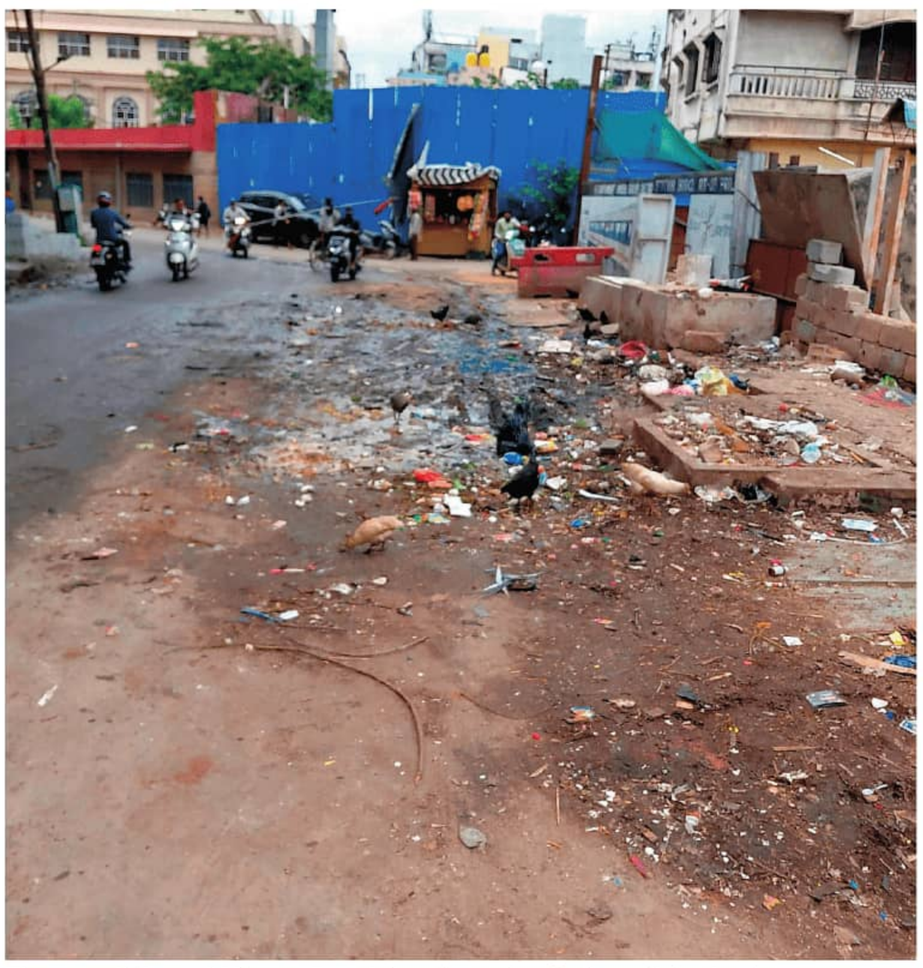
Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Moore Road in Pulikeshi Nagar are grappling with an unhygienic environment caused by the negligence of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML). They allege that authorities have failed to relocate the garbage transfer point, forcing them to endure unbearable stench and leachate leakage from garbage trucks. The persistent odour and waste seepage on the road have made daily life difficult, raising concerns over health and civic responsibility in the area.

"I have complained to the authorities about the foul odour and unhygienic conditions caused by waste segregation on the road. It's difficult for me to drop my children to school on a scooter. I request the authorities to immediately stop this roadside segregation of waste," said Vijay Babu, a resident.

Expressing concern over the unhygienic atmosphere on the road, Lakshmi, who works as a nurse at a nearby private hospital, has said that she has to use a handkerchief to protect her nose from bad odour. "I am of the opinion that the authorities have to keep the place clean and neat to prevent health-related problems in the locality", she said.

Demanding the authorities to stop segregating or transferring garbage from auto tippers to garbage trucks, Bharath Kumar R, a resident at Moore Road, said that the garbage segregation location has become an eyesore and a health hazard for residents. "The scene of garbage and the leachate on the road is nauseating. The people residing near the location are suffering a lot. It will benefit the residents if the authorities shift the garbage transfer station to another location",' he said.


The condition of Moore Road due to segregation of garbage

Suggesting the authorities to find a suitable location for transferring garbage into garbage trucks, Habiba Suban, Organising Secretary of Frazer Town Residents Welfare Association has said the garbage and leachate on the road may cause health problems for the residents. "Garbage segregation or transfer into garbage trucks should not take place in a residential area. I want the BBMP or BSWML authorities to find a suitable location for the garbage transfer station", she said.

When informed, BBMP Nodal Officer Venkatesh assured that steps would be taken to maintain cleanliness in the area. "I will instruct my subordinates to visit the place and take necessary measures to keep it clean," he said. Meanwhile, the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) floated a tender on July 22, inviting bidders for the construction of four garbage transfer stations at Hebbal, Pulikeshinagar, CV Raman Nagar, and Shanthi Nagar at an estimated cost of Rs 4,442.75 lakh (excluding GST).

> **"We have decided to construct garbage transfer stations at 23 locations across the city. The entire process is expected to be completed within the next six months**
> – Dr Harish Kumar, CEO, BSWML

"We have decided to construct garbage transfer stations at 23 locations across the city. The entire process is expected to be completed within the next six months," said BSWML CEO Dr Harish Kumar.

Dream expressway completion set for 2026

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

While much of the eagerly awaited Bengaluru–Chennai Expressway is close to completion, commuters hoping for a smooth 2.5-hour ride between the two cities must wait longer. Despite steady progress in multiple segments, full operations are delayed due to lagging work in a few critical sections. The entire expressway is now expected to be ready by mid-2026.

Final stretch delayed till 2026

The slowest progress along the Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway is seen on the Byreddypalli–Bangarupalem stretch in Andhra Pradesh, part of Phase-II, Package-II, covering 31 km. With only 64.5% physical progress so far, this section is expected to be completed by June 2026—making it the final leg of the expressway to be ready. Two other stretches—Bangarupalem–Gudipala (29 km) under Phase-II, Package-III and Arakkonam–Kancheepuram (25.5 km) under Phase-III, Package-III—are expected to be completed by March 2026. The former is nearly done at 97.4%, while the latter trails behind at 53.56%.

Bulk of project ends by 2025

According to NHAI data, although a few stretches may delay full-scale operations, most of the expressway is likely to be ready by the end of 2025. The Bethamngala to Byreddypalli stretch (25 km, Phase-II, Package-I) has achieved 85.9% progress and is expected to be completed by December 2025. Likewise, the Kancheepuram to Sriperumbudur stretch (31.7 km) has reached 78.11% progress toward its year-end target.

Meanwhile, October 2025 will see the completion of two crucial packages: Gudipala to Walajahpet (24 km, 86.2% done) and Walajahpet to Arakkonam (24.5 km, 91.26% completed), both in Tamil Nadu.

Over 70 km of the expressway in Karnataka is fully ready for use

Karnataka stretches already ready

The good news lies at the Karnataka end of the expressway. All three packages under Phase-I—Package 1 (27.1 km), Package 2 (27.1 km), and Package 3 (17.5 km)—are already complete and have been issued Provisional Certificates of Completion (PCOD). These sections account for more than 70 km of the expressway and are fully ready for use.

A wait worth making

Once completed, the 262-km greenfield expressway will revolutionise connectivity between Bengaluru and Chennai, drastically cutting travel time and easing freight movement. Though commuters will need to wait until mid-2026 for the full expressway to open, the progress so far indicates that the finish line is well within sight. For now, however, seamless end-to-end travel remains a work in progress.

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Garbage negligence

HBR Layout

Despite repeated complaints, residents allege that garbage continues to be dumped on the main road in HBR Layout, with no action from authorities.

Waste zone

Jayanagar

Garbage has overrun 10C Main Road—a key link to Lalbagh—as an open plot turns into a foul dumping site. Authorities must penalise negligent owners.

Damaged road

Malleswaram

The 8th Cross in Malleswaram—one of the area's busiest stretches—is in disrepair, urgently needing attention and proper civic action.

HC quashes gag order, slams vague Dharmasthala injunction

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
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The Karnataka High Court, on August 1, nullified the ex-parte gag order against YouTube channel 'Kudla Rampage' regarding the Dharmasthala Burial case. Justice M Nagaprasanna noted the trial court's failure to specify defamatory content and criticised the "mandatory sweeping injunction". The order's broad scope potentially silences any criticism against respondent-plaintiff Harshendra Kumar D, his family, or Dharmasthala.

The gag order, earlier issued by a local Bengaluru civil court, had restrained media houses and YouTube channels from publishing any "defamatory content" against Harshendra Kumar D — brother of Dharmadhikari Veerendra Heggade — his family, associated institutions, and the Sri Manjunathaswamy Temple. The restriction followed explosive allegations made by a former sanitation worker, who claimed he was forced to "clandestinely bury a multitude of human remains" within the temple grounds between 1995 and 2014. The allegations also included serious charges of rape and murder involving members of the temple administration.

The High Court, while quashing the order, instructed the civil court to reconsider the matter afresh, taking into account the observations made in its ruling. "Petition allowed in part. Impugned ex-parte order stands quashed. Matter remained back to consider the IA afresh bearing in mind the observations made in the order. This court has not expressed any opinion on the merits of the suit and contentions," Justice Nagaprasanna clarified.

> **"A mandatory sweeping injunction cannot be issued without specifying what constitutes defamatory content, thereby ensnaring any voice against the plaintiff**
>
> –Justice M Nagaprasanna

In scathing remarks, the court criticised the trial court's blanket ban, calling it overly broad and lacking judicial reasoning. "The court, for the asking, has issued the said order. The order has now cast its net so wide that it threatens to ensnare any voice against the plaintiff, the family or the place," the judge noted.

The High Court emphasised that while civil courts are empowered to grant mandatory injunctions, such relief must be reasoned and proportionate. It pointed out that the order, though lengthy, did not reflect the court's application of mind. "Mere volume cannot substitute judicial evaluation; nor can length masquerade legal necessity," the court stated.

The bench further noted that ex-parte injunctions are exceptional remedies and must be accompanied by clear reasoning as to why notice to the other party would frustrate the injunction's purpose. In this case, the order failed to define what constituted "defamatory content" and offered no justification for bypassing notice.

Senior advocate Uday Holla, representing Harshendra Kumar D, defended the possibility of issuing ex-parte orders and questioned the maintainability of the channel's petition. However, advocate A. Velan, appearing for Kudla Rampage, argued that the trial court's order indiscriminately affected over 300 media outlets and URLs, violating the petitioner's fundamental rights under Article 19(1)(a).

The YouTube channel contended that the lack of clarity, coupled with the procedural lapse, rendered the order void and impossible to comply with, as it effectively suppressed legitimate public discourse.

Govt closely monitoring social media posts

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Friday said the government is closely monitoring social media posts linked to the alleged mass burial case in Dharmasthala and will act against content inciting unrest. He announced an SIT probe into a former pourakarmika's burial claims, warning action against posts inciting communal unrest, referencing previous hate speech crackdowns in Dakshina Kannada district and beyond.

BBMP fails to curb illegal flexes, netas' fans defy rules

Despite FIRs and court orders, political followers continue erecting illegal banners, choking Bengaluru's public spaces with impunity and zero accountability

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities have been claiming to have removed illegal flexes and cut-outs in the city. However, illegal cut-outs, flexes, and banners continue to appear on the city roads without any hassles.

Despite repeated assurances and action plans, flex banners and hoardings continue to deface public spaces across Bengaluru. While the BBMP asserts that it is cracking down on violators, the ground reality paints a different picture—with political followers and local groups brazenly erecting hoardings during birthdays and community festivals without permission.

In an affidavit submitted to the High Court last year, the BBMP stated that it had filed police complaints against over 400 individuals for illegally installing flexes, banners, and posters across various city zones. According to the affidavit, FIRs were registered against 448 people, and penalties amounting to 4.10 lakh were collected for these violations.

Yet, the illegal displays remain rampant. From religious festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi, Ramzan, and Christmas to political birthdays and inaugurations, flexes are plastered across traffic junctions, sidewalks, and even skywalks—often blocking views and inconveniencing pedestrians.

The BBMP's own data shows that the Mahadevapura Zone topped the list with 113 FIRs filed in 2024. It was followed by West Zone with 91 FIRs, while RR Nagar Zone recorded only 23 FIRs, the lowest among all. Surprisingly, no penalties were collected in Bommanahalli and East Zones, raising questions about enforcement consistency.

BBMP officials are empowered to act under Section 319 of the BBMP Act, 2020, which allows them to remove unauthorized hoardings and impose penalties. But civic activists say enforcement is weak and selective.

Followers erect giant flex cut-outs despite BBMP's claims of enforcing norms and penalising violators

"It's not just about aesthetics. These illegal structures can lead to accidents and damage the environment," said Vinod Jacob, a civic evangelist. "Even Deputy CM DK Shivakumar had instructed BBMP to clear all illegal hoardings. Though a clean-up was undertaken in March, violations persist. We need stronger vigilance and adherence to court orders," he said.

Pedestrians and activists blame political leaders for allowing their supporters to misuse public property. Jayaram Naidu N, a daily commuter, said that a large banner featuring Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan was recently erected near Town Hall without any visible BBMP approval. "This is one of the most prominent spots in the city. We have no issue if banners are put up after paying the proper fees. But I doubt any fees were paid in this case. The BBMP must act and penalise the violators," he said.

> **Illegal banners continue to clutter Bengaluru despite FIRs and fines; activists blame political apathy and demand stricter enforcement**
>
> –Vinod Jacob, civic evangelist

Legal voices have also expressed frustration over the lack of accountability. GR Mohan, an advocate, said the BBMP has grown apathetic towards this issue. "Despite legal provisions, officials are either turning a blind eye or failing to follow through on action. This reflects a serious lack of civic responsibility."

Adding to the chorus, HM Venkatesh, who had previously filed a contempt petition against the State Chief Secretary and BBMP Chief Commissioner, declined to comment further but confirmed ongoing legal action over the matter.

When contacted, BBMP Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil maintained that the department was committed to enforcing the rules. "If flexes are found to be in violation, they will be removed. I will look into the issue," he said.

With public spaces increasingly misused and visual clutter becoming a civic eyesore, residents and activists are urging the BBMP to follow through on its own commitments—and ensure that Bengaluru's urban fabric isn't hijacked by illegal publicity material.

Heavy rains force trek ban

Tadiandamol Hill, the highest peak in Kodagu district, has been temporarily closed for trekking due to heavy rains. The Madikeri Forest Division announced the decision, citing safety concerns such as falling tree branches weakened by strong winds and rain. Located in the Kakkabe sub-division of the Bhagamandala forest range, the area has also seen reduced visibility due to dense fog and clouds, increasing the chances of trekkers getting lost. Forest officials have also reported wild animal movement in the region, adding to the risk. The trekking ban is a precautionary measure and will remain in effect until the end of the monsoon season. Authorities have urged tourists and the public to cooperate and avoid venturing into the forest until weather conditions improve. **BMB**

Trump tariffs threaten state exports

The US's proposed 25% import tariff on Indian goods—driven by former President Donald Trump's policies—is expected to significantly hit India's export economy, particularly affecting Karnataka. The state annually exports goods worth ₹4–5 lakh crore to the US, including coffee, IT products, textiles, millets, agro-products, and automobile parts. Labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, gems, jewellery, carpets, and handicrafts are especially vulnerable, as higher costs may drastically reduce demand. Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) President MG Balakrishna warned that the hike could shrink export volumes and force industries to cut jobs to curb losses. Thousands of manufacturing units across the state could face operational setbacks, triggering wider economic stress. FKCCI urges India-US talks as UK trade deal offers limited relief. **BMB**

Ayushman Bharat surgery costs revised

In a move to strengthen government healthcare services, the Karnataka Health Department has revised the surgery package rates under the Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK) scheme for knee and hip replacement procedures. The cost for knee replacement surgery has been fixed at Rs 65,000, while hip replacement will now cost Rs 1 lakh. These revised rates include implant charges and incentives for surgeons, as per the pricing framework set by the Medical Education Department. Private surgeons assisting in government hospitals will now receive 100 per cent procedural incentive — up from the earlier 75 per cent. Government and autonomous hospital doctors will receive a 75 per cent incentive. **–BMB**

Barrier-free access, ramps, wider doorways recommended

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The country's jails, built for 5.15 lakh people, are now straining under a burden that is expected to touch 6.8 lakh by 2030. At present, India has 1,350 prisons, 144 of them central jails, 617 district prisons, 410 sub-jails, 86 open jails, 41 special prisons, 31 women's prisons, and 19 juvenile homes. However, with the rising inmate population, these numbers have proven inadequate.

To ease the pressure, Karnataka has begun constructing four new prisons, in Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Bidar, and Vijayapura, each designed to house up to 1,000 inmates. The initiative is seen as a step toward mitigating the state's severe overcrowding problem.

The new guidelines

The guidelines stress the need for dedicated arrangements such as separate housing, nutritious meals suited to specific health and age-related requirements, accessible sanitation facilities, and mental health services. The directive also mandates that prison staff be sensitised and trained to address the unique needs of inmates with disabilities.

According to the order, senior prisoners, particularly those aged 50 and above, should be given special consideration in terms of housing, medical attention, and food planning. Similarly, for disabled inmates, the directive calls for structural adjustments within prison facilities, including barrier-free access, ramps, and wider doorways, along with regular healthcare and counselling sessions.

Welcoming the move, Bengaluru-based lawyer and rights activist Narasimha Murthy said, "This step was much needed. Many elderly inmates live with age-related weaknesses, and disabled prisoners often go without even basic support. This initiative has the potential to bring back a sense of dignity and improve living standards for those who are most often ignored."

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BBMP plans 52 more Indira Canteens across B'luru

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has proposed a Rs 20 crore plan to construct 52 new Indira Canteens across Bengaluru, following government directions to extend the initiative to newly added wards. Originally, 198 canteens were planned in 2017—one per ward—but due to land constraints, only 174 (including 24 mobile units) were set up, of which about 160 are currently operational. With BBMP ward numbers having expanded from 198 to 225, the civic body is now moving forward with new constructions. The tender process is underway, technical evaluations are complete, and work orders will soon be issued. Most locations have already been identified, with land finalisation pending in 10–12 spots, according to BBMP officials. **BMB**

State not opposed to 'Flexi Hours'

The Karnataka government has no objection to the Centre's proposal to extend daily work hours from 9 hours to 10 hours under the 'Flexi Hours' policy — provided workers and labour unions give their consent. Labour Minister Santosh Lad clarified that while the government supports the idea in principle, any implementation must involve prior consultation and approval from employees and their unions. Industries can submit proposals to the Labour Department after obtaining consent from their workers, and only then will approval be granted. Some industries, like SA Industries, have already received permission.

Minister Lad also criticised a few companies for laying off thousands of employees without notifying the government, stating that such large-scale job losses require proper intimation and explanation. He added that 'Flexi Hours' cannot be enforced across the board but must be applied selectively based on industry-specific conditions. While the Centre claims this model allows for a 5-day work week with 2 days off, Lad called the concept unscientific, noting that extended 10-hour shifts may be feasible only for short periods and not throughout the year. **–BMB**

Food manufacturers urged to ditch greasy oils

In a strong push for safer food practices, Karnataka's Food Safety and Drug Administration Commissioner K Srinivas has directed food manufacturers, hotel and bakery owners to avoid high-fat cooking oils and strictly refrain from using reused or fried oil, citing rising cancer and cardiac disease risks from substandard food. He emphasised that all cooking oil used must meet food safety standards and be tested every six months for quality.

During a video conference with district officers, hotel and bakery associations, edible oil manufacturers, and RUCO (Used Cooking Oil) agencies, Srinivas stressed the need for cleaner practices in food preparation. He warned that recent lab tests of popular kebabs revealed unsafe oil usage in reputed hotels. Food businesses must now ensure proper labelling, oil fortification (with Vitamin A & D), and hygienic handling as per Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) rules. Additionally, hotels are required to hand over used oil to RUCO agencies to prevent reuse, and the oil should be sent for biofuel production. Officials noted that over 32.08 lakh litres of used cooking oil were collected in 2024–25 and 2025–26 so far. **BMB**

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shamanth B M R/o No. 810, 14th Main, 13th Cross, A Sector, Yelahanka Newtown, Bengaluru-560064 have changed my minor son's name from Vihan S to S. Uttansh Vihaan for all purposes

I Amit Ashok Jain, S/O, Ashok Kumar Jain, R/o 23182, Kiara Tower 23, Prestige Lakeside Habitat, S H 35, Varthur Main Road, Gunjur, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560087, have changed my name to Amit Jain

I Preeti D Rajpurohit, Aged about 43 years, W/o. Dhanvantri Rajpurohit, residing at No.38, 2nd Cross, 2nd Phase, 4th Stage, BEML layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru 560098. my names are PREETI D RAJPUROHIT and PREETI KULKARNI are one and the same person VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED:31.07.2025 before notary S R THULASIKRISHNA, Bangalore

I, HABIBULLA KHAN S/o Mehaboob Khan R/o No 27, 21st Cross, Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Nagar, Madeena Nagar, Bengaluru-560076 have changed my name to HABEEBULLA KHAN for all purposes

I Rakesh Ramesha Reddy, S/o, Ramesha Reddy, Residing at, No 258, 7th Cross, 27th Main, Hsr Layout Sector 1, Bengaluru 560102, have changed my name to Rakesh Reddy for all purposes

I Suhailahmed Abdulshukur Mujawar F/o Suhaan Khan Muzawar R/o #18, 2nd Cross, Popular Colony, M.G.Palya, Bommanhalli, Bengaluru -68 has changed my son's name as Suhaan Khan S Muzawar

I, MAZHAR JAHAN IMTIYAZ residing at #No.13, Cassu raiana Street Thimmaiah Road Cross, Bharathi Nagar, Bangalore-560001. I have changed my name to MAZHAR JAHAN BEGUM. Vide affidavit dated 31/07/2025 sworn before notary. Leela Bangalore

I, Kiran G Hegde S/O, Ganajan Hegde R/o #120, Sumukha, Vinayaka Layout, Kodipalya, Kengeri 560060 have changed my name to Kiran Hegde for all purposes

I, Snigdha D/O, Ravi Shankar R/o C301, Sumadhura Soham, Ecc Road, Whitefield, Bangalore, 560066 have changed my name to Snigdha Shankar for all purposes.

I Bharat Chrishtie Anthony S/O, C Arul Prakash R/o 7 Sussan Villa, Hormavu have changed my name to Bharat Christie Anthony .

I, Veeranna K S/O, Kariyanna R/o #67, Gokula Residency, Nagajjigudlu, Sira, Tumakuru 572137. have changed my name to Veeresh K for all purposes.

I, CHIKKARAJU, aged 45 years, S/o Chikkanna Residing at No. 13, 3rd Cross, 4th Main Road, Begur Main Road, Balaji Layout, Hongasandra, Begur, Bengaluru-560114 have changed my name from CHIKKARAJA to CHIKKARAJU, Vide affidavit dated: 31.07.2025 before notary JAIN SWARNAMALA, Bengaluru.

I, Sameemabanu Mohammed Baig R/o No.55, Lakshmipuram Extn, Sakaleshpur, Hassan 573134 present camp Bengaluru have changed my name to Sameema Banu Affidavit Dt.01/08/2025 notary Harisha G, Bengaluru

I, Usha Anil Kumar, W/o. Anilkumar D K, R/o. #70, Devarachikkanahalli, Bengaluru South, Blr-560076, have changed my name to USHA SRINIVASA vide affidavit Dtd: 01/08/25 before Notary M. Rajendra, Blr.

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Leadership, change, future drive IIMBue

IIMBue 2025, the annual leadership and ideas summit by the IIM Bangalore Alumni Association (IIMBAA), will be held on August 2–3 in Bengaluru. With the theme "Shifting Realities, Soaring Possibilities," the summit will host over 800 professionals, entrepreneurs, policymakers, academics, and creatives. The event focuses on evolving ideas around business, society, and personal development.

The speaker lineup features renowned names like Dr Devi Shetty, Rohini Nilekani, Madhusudan Sai, Pullela Gopichand, Kamlesh D Patel, Nithin Kamath, Rohit Bansal, Sahil Barua, Saurabh Bothra, Hitesh Oberoi, Dr Ricky Kej, and Madhabi Puri Buch.

Harish Mittal, IIMBAA President, said the summit unites the alumni network around transformative ideas. Convenor Deepu Chandran emphasised its focus on leadership, community, and change. **–BMB**

City feeling under the weather

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Overall, the rainfall deficit across Bengaluru ranged from -45% to -20%, making July a better performer than June, which had registered a sharper shortfall between -62% and -47%. Despite these monthly dips, the cumulative rainfall recorded at IMD Bengaluru for the year stands at 499 mm, which is above the normal year-to-date mark of 398 mm. Thus, while Bengaluru has been reeling under dry monsoon spells recently, the city's overall annual tally still offers some relief.

The city increasingly sees rainfall extend beyond traditional seasons

Changing August

August, once the most pleasant month in Bengaluru, has become a mixed bag of extremes. While the long-term average for daily maximum temperature in August stands at a modest 28.1°C, the city has recently seen alarming spikes. In 2023, the mercury touched 32.6°C on August 29 — just shy of the all-time record of 33.3°C set back in 1899. Night temperatures have remained relatively stable, averaging around 20°C, offering little relief from the rising daytime heat, according to statistics from IMD.

Rainfall patterns have seen even more dramatic shifts. The average August rainfall between 1991 and 2020 is 162.7 mm, spread across roughly 10 rainy days. However, recent years have defied these norms. In 2021, Bengaluru was drenched with 366.7 mm of rain, while 2023 saw a paltry 12.6 mm, one of the driest Augusts in recent history. The 2017 Independence Day cloudburst brought 128.7 mm in just 24 hours, highlighting the city's new normal of intense, short bursts of rainfall.

When seasons blur

Zooming out, Bengaluru's long-term climate data reflects a mild tropical climate, but with emerging red flags. The annual average maximum temperature is 29.8°C, while the minimum hovers at 19.4°C, showing moderate variation. The hottest months remain April (34.1°C) and May (33.1°C), while December brings the coolest air, with minimums dipping to 16.4°C.

The monsoon period from May to October contributes nearly 80% of the annual 1,077.6 mm rainfall, with September (208.3 mm) and October (186.4 mm) being the wettest months. While January to March is typically dry, the city has increasingly seen rainfall and thunderstorm activities extending beyond their traditional seasons. May, for instance, averages 10.9 thunderstorm days, underscoring growing pre-monsoon volatility.

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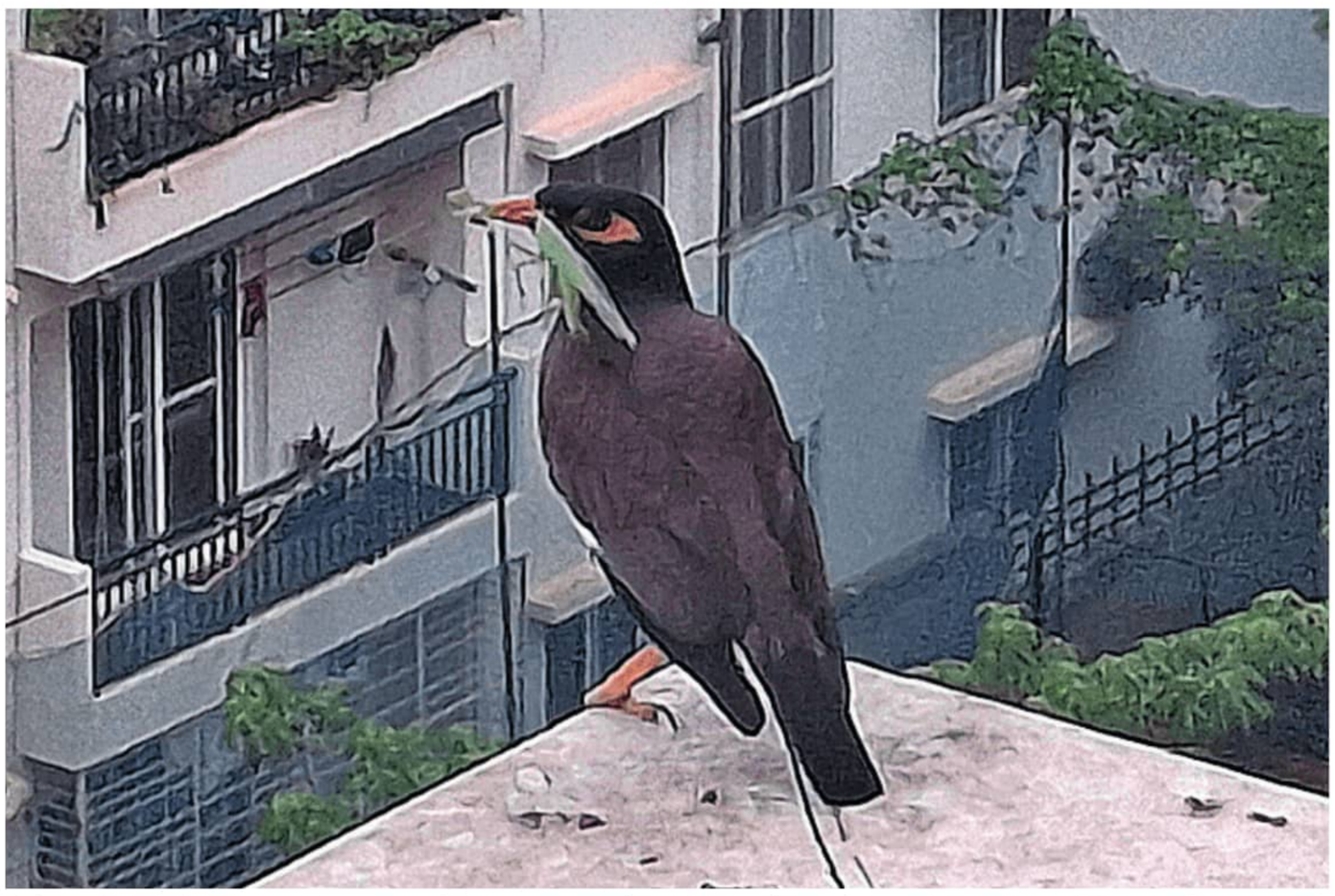
BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

MORNING MYNA MEAL

Our reader shares a delightful moment from the early hours of the day—an observant Myna perched patiently at 6.30 am, clutching a freshly caught grasshopper in its beak. For 30 minutes, it waited, calling out to its partner to share the morning treat. A tender scene of companionship and instinct, captured with quiet charm in nature's first light.



The picture was clicked by reader **Vijita Asher**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

BBMP fines builder, sacks officials over footpath ramp encroachment

Civic body penalises builder ₹1 lakh, removes three officials for ignoring footpath encroachment, debris complaints, and public safety violations

A building owner on MN Krishna Rao Road in Basavanagudi has been fined ₹1 lakh by BBMP for illegally installing a ramp on a public footpath, obstructing pedestrian movement. The ramp, constructed as part of a building under construction at Property No. 16, had completely encroached upon the footpath and was covered with green netting, making it unusable for pedestrians.

Acting on complaints, BBMP officials inspected the site and confirmed the encroachment. The ramp, instead of being restricted to private property, extended over the entire width of the pedestrian walkway, forcing people onto the road. The violation came under scrutiny after BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath recently instructed officials to double penalties and issue notices to property owners misusing public spaces without prior approval.

Following these directions, Chief Engineer (South Zone) Basavaraj Kabade ordered a field inspection. Based on the report, a notice was issued to the property owner, along with a penalty of ₹1 lakh. The building owner has since submitted a cheque addressed to the BBMP Chief Commissioner. Officials have warned him against repeating such violations, stressing that public convenience must not be compromised by private construction activities.

In a related development, three BBMP officials from the Mahalakshmipuram subdivision in the West Zone have been relieved of their duties for alleged negligence. The disciplinary action follows their repeated failure to address civic complaints and comply with instructions issued during zonal review meetings.

During review sessions on July 1 and 2, 2025, officials were directed to register complaints from residents on the Sahaaya 2.0 platform and ensure timely resolution. These instructions were reiterated in formal proceedings dated July 14. However, during an early morning inspection by the Chief Commissioner in Ward 102 (Vrushabhavathinagar), several lapses came to light — including pothole-filled roads, garbage accumulation, and obstructed footpaths due to demolition debris.

Despite repeated complaints, no visible action was taken on the Sahaaya platform, prompting the administration to view the inaction as a lack of seriousness and accountability. The three officials were relieved from their posts with immediate effect. — BMB

Ramp construction fully blocked pedestrian access, covered with green netting, violating public space norms

DID YOU KNOW?

A recent underwater expedition has uncovered a thriving community of deep-sea creatures in the Kuril–Kamchatka and Aleutian trenches of the northwest Pacific Ocean. These ocean trenches, plunging over 31,000 feet (9.5 kilometres) deep, are among the harshest environments on Earth—marked by crushing pressure, near-freezing temperatures, and a total absence of sunlight. Scientists have long known that tiny microbes live in such depths, but this new discovery reveals that larger organisms, including tubeworms and mollusks, are also flourishing there. Using a deep-sea submersible, researchers observed vast networks of these creatures in areas previously difficult to access. Without sunlight, these ecosystems rely on chemical processes rather than photosynthesis. Microbes may feed on carbon that has accumulated over time in the trench, producing energy-rich compounds that larger organisms either consume or rely on through symbiosis. Julie Huber, a deep-sea microbiologist unaffiliated with the study, noted the diversity and depth of the life forms found. Study authors Mengran Du and Vladimir Mordukhovich said the discovery challenges existing ideas about life's ability to persist under extreme conditions and opens doors to further exploration. — AP

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Government says study on antibiotic contamination in rivers based on assumptions

A recent global study has raised alarms about the potential antibiotic contamination in Indian rivers, claiming that nearly 80% of the total river length in the country may pose environmental and public health risks. However, the Indian government has rejected these claims, stating that the study is not conclusive and is based merely on "simulations and assumptions."

Responding to a query by Congress MP Pramod Tiwari in the Rajya Sabha on Friday, Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Kirti Vardhan Singh, clarified that the study in question—titled "Antibiotics in the global river system arising from human consumption"—was conducted by researchers at McGill University, Canada. It was published in the media on April 24, 2025.

Singh pointed out that the study itself acknowledges data limitations and relies heavily on predictive modelling rather than empirical evidence. "No conclusion on the issue can be drawn from it," he said in a written reply.

The minister also stated that the Indian government has not undertaken any independent study on antibiotic contamination in the country's river systems. Despite the absence of government-led data, Singh highlighted several regulatory and preventive measures already in place to address pharmaceutical waste. These include the launch of the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR) in April 2017. The plan aims to reduce the environmental impact of antimicrobial resistance through improved waste management and safe disposal of expired drugs.

To this end, the Ministry of Environment issued a notification in August 2021 for the bulk drug and pharmaceutical sector. The notification classifies residues such as chemical and biological sludge from wastewater treatment plants as hazardous waste under the Hazardous Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Singh also noted that state pollution control boards are empowered to set additional monitoring parameters based on regional needs and risks.

Pharmaceutical industries are mandated to incinerate expired antimicrobials under the Bio-medical Waste Management Rules, 2016, and are encouraged to adopt waste minimisation strategies such as reduce, recycle, and reuse to advance towards Zero Liquid Discharge—a process that ensures minimal environmental contamination from effluent sources.

While the government has dismissed the McGill University study as inconclusive, its response also underscores a significant gap: the lack of domestic, data-driven research on antibiotic pollution in Indian water bodies. As concerns grow globally over antimicrobial resistance, experts argue that India may need to back its regulatory framework with robust, field-based scientific research to better understand and tackle the issue. — BMB

Amazon tumbles after cloud computing growth disappoints investors

Amazon.com shares fell about 7% on Friday as the tech giant's results fanned investor fears its cloud unit was falling behind Microsoft and Alphabet in the artificial intelligence race.

Amazon Web Services, long the cloud-computing market leader, edged past Wall Street estimates for June-quarter revenue on Thursday with a 17.5% increase, but it widely lagged the 39% growth seen at Microsoft Azure and Google Cloud's 32% gain.

That disappointing growth came even as Amazon shelled out $31.4 billion in capital expenditure, more than rivals, and suggested it would spend a more-than-estimated $118 billion for the year.

Google and Microsoft also pledged higher spending, but were rewarded from investors on signs AI was already becoming a major growth driver across their businesses, justifying the bill.

The companies have been spending billions of dollars on datacenters and cutting-edge chips that they say are necessary to overcome supply constraints hampering their efforts to capitalize on soaring demand for AI services.

"The spotlight was firmly on AWS and it didn't quite shine as brightly as expected," said Matt Britzman, senior equity analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown. "While Microsoft and Alphabet have already shown strong momentum in cloud growth, AWS wasn't the knockout many wanted to see."

"While Microsoft and Alphabet have shown strong momentum in cloud growth, Amazon Web Services wasn't the knockout many wanted to see

Growing expenses have also started to take a bite out of AWS's margins, the business that has long been Amazon's profit engine, accounting for about 60% of its operating income.

AWS margins contracted to 32.9% during the quarter, their lowest level since the final quarter of 2023, and Amazon also issued a current-quarter total operating income forecast that was lower than market estimates.

CEO Andy Jassy told analysts on a post-earnings call that it was still "very early days" in the AI race and that Amazon's massive cloud business, much larger than rivals, was primed to perform well once the AI capacity constraints start to ease.

The stock, up 6.7% so far this year, was at $216.6 in early trading. The drop was set to erase around $170 billion from Amazon's market value, if the losses hold.

The company still trades at a relatively high premium, with a 12-month forward price-to-earnings ratio of 33.87, compared with Microsoft's 34.19 and Alphabet's 18.64, according to data compiled by LSEG.

Retail resilience

At least 30 analysts raised their price targets on the stock, while three lowered, giving it a median view of $260.

Some of that analyst confidence comes from the strong performance of Amazon's retail business, which has remained resilient in the face of Trump administration tariffs that have hobbled many retailers and their supply chains.

Amazon has yet to see a drop in demand or a notable rise in prices in the first half of the year, Jassy said, as its online store sales jumped a better-than-expected 11% in the second quarter.

Manufacturers and suppliers have shouldered most of the tariff impact so far, analysts said, but noted that much of the inventory Amazon sold in the quarter arrived in the preceding three-month period.

"If Amazon's retail business was a standalone entity, it would be trading dramatically higher following the near-perfect results," said Michael Morton, analyst at MoffettNathanson.

"Unfortunately, as we all know, the success of the retail business is not what's going to matter in the near term for Amazon's stock price." **Reuters**

Google loses appeal in antitrust battle with Fortnite maker

A federal appeals court has upheld a jury verdict condemning Google's Android app store as an illegal monopoly, clearing the way for a federal judge to enforce a potentially disruptive shakeup that's designed to give consumers more choices.

The unanimous ruling issued Thursday by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals delivers a double-barreled legal blow for Google, which has been waylaid in three separate antitrust trials that resulted in different pillars of its internet empire being declared as domineering scofflaws monopolies since late 2023.

The unsuccessful appeal represents a major victory for video game maker Epic Games, which launched a legal crusade targeting Google's Play Store for Android apps and Apple's iPhone app store nearly five years ago in an attempt to bypass exclusive payment processing systems that charged 15% to 30% commissions on in-app transactions.

The jury's December 2023 rebuke of Google's app store for Android-powered smartphones began a cascade of setbacks that includes monopoly judgements against the company's ubiquitous search engine last year and the technology underlying its digital ad network earlier this year.

Although not as lucrative as Google's search engine or ad system, the Play Store for Android apps has long been a gold mine that generated billions of dollars in annual revenue by taking a 15% to 30% cut from in-app transactions funneled through the company's own payment processing system.

Following a month-long trial, a nine-person jury determined that Google had rigged its system to thwart alternative app stores from offering better deals to consumers and software developers.

That verdict resulted in U.S. District Judge James Donato ordering Google to tear down digital walls shielding the Play Store from competition, triggering the company's appeal to overturn the jury's finding and void the judge's mandated shakeup. **AP**

BITS & BYTES

ONLINE SAFETY?

Britain's online safety law risks suppressing free speech due to its heavy-handed enforcement, social media site X said on Friday, adding that significant changes were needed.

The Online Safety Act, which is being rolled out this year, sets tough new requirements on platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, TikTok and X, as well as sites hosting pornography, to protect children and remove illegal content. But it has attracted criticism, from those who complain that the rules had been implemented too broadly, resulting in the censorship of legal content. **Reuters**

APPLE READY FOR AI

Apple CEO Tim Cook signaled on Thursday the iPhone maker was ready to spend more to catch up to rivals in artificial intelligence by building more data centers or buying a larger player in the segment, a departure from a long practice of fiscal frugality.

Apple has struggled to keep pace with rivals such as Microsoft and Alphabet's Google, both of which have attracted hundreds of millions of users to their AI-powered chatbots and assistants. That growth has come at a steep cost, but, with Google planning to spend $85 billion over the next year and Microsoft on track to spend more than $100 billion, mostly on data centers. Apple has tried to grow much of its AI tech in-house. **Reuters**

PLAY WITH REAL MONEY

Google has proposed to allow real money games on Google Play in India as part of addressing anti-competition concerns. Besides, the technology major has suggested changes to Google Ads Policy and permits games of skill to be advertised in India, subject to certain conditions.

In November 2024, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had ordered an investigation against Google on a complaint filed by Winzo Games Pvt Ltd. Against this backdrop, Google has submitted a commitment proposal to the regulator. "The Play Commitment Proposal, with the Ads Commitment Proposal, addresses the Commission's concerns. **PTI**

BEST FRIEND KNOWS BEST

Your dog can read your mind – sort of

Your dog tilts its head when you cry, paces when you're stressed, and somehow appears at your side during your worst moments. Coincidence? Not even close.Thousands of years of co-evolution have given dogs special ways to tune in to our voices, faces and even brain chemistry. From brain regions devoted to processing our speech to the "love hormone" or oxytocin that surges when we lock eyes, your dog's mind is hardwired to pick up on what you're feeling.

The evidence for this extraordinary emotional intelligence begins in the brain itself. Dogs' brains have dedicated areas that are sensitive to voice, similar to those in humans. In a brain imaging study, researchers found that dogs possess voice-processing regions in their temporal cortex that light up in response to vocal sounds.

Dogs respond not just to any sound, but to the emotional tone of your voice. Brain scans reveal that emotionally charged sounds – a laugh, a cry, an angry shout – activate dogs' auditory cortex and the amygdala – a part of the brain involved in processing emotions.

Dogs are also skilled face readers. When shown images of human faces, dogs exhibit increased brain activity. One study found that seeing a familiar human face activates a dog's reward centres and emotional centres – meaning your dog's brain is processing your expressions, perhaps not in words but in feelings.

Dogs don't just observe your emotions; they can "catch" them too. Researchers call this emotional contagion, a basic form of empathy where one individual mirrors another's emotional state. A 2019 study found that some dog-human pairs had synchronised cardiac patterns during stressful times, with their heartbeats mirroring each other. This doesn't require complex reasoning – it's more of an automatic empathy arising from close bonding. Your dog's empathetic yawns or whines are probably due to learned association and emotional attunement rather than literal mind-mirroring.

The oxytocin effect

The most remarkable discovery in canine-human bonding may be the chemical connection we share. When dogs and humans make gentle eye contact, both partners experience a surge of oxytocin, often dubbed the "love hormone".

In one study, owners who held long mutual gazes with their dogs had significantly higher oxytocin levels afterwards, and so did their dogs. This oxytocin feedback loop reinforces bonding, much like the gaze between a parent and infant.

Astonishingly, this effect is unique to domesticated dogs: hand-raised wolves did not respond the same way to human eye contact. As dogs became domesticated, they evolved this interspecies oxytocin loop as a way to glue them emotionally to their humans. Those soulful eyes your pup gives you are chemically binding you two together.

> **"Dogs don't just observe your emotions; they can "catch" them too — this is emotional contagion, a form of empathy where one mirrors another's emotional state**

Beyond eye contact, dogs are surprisingly skilled at reading human body language and facial expressions. Experiments demonstrate that pet dogs can distinguish a smiling face from an angry face, even in photos.

Dogs show a subtle right-hemisphere bias when processing emotional cues, tending to gaze toward the left side of a human's face when assessing expressions – a pattern also seen in humans and primates.Dogs rely on multiple senses to discern how you're feeling. A cheerful, high-pitched "Good boy!" with a relaxed posture sends a very different message than a stern shout with rigid body language. Remarkably, they can even sniff out emotions. In a 2018 study, dogs exposed to sweat from scared people exhibited more stress than dogs that smelled "happy" sweat. In essence, your anxiety smells unpleasant to your dog, whereas your relaxed happiness can put them at ease.

Bred for friendship

How did dogs become so remarkably attuned to human emotions? The answer lies in their evolutionary journey alongside us. Dogs have smaller brains than their wild wolf ancestors, but in the process of domestication, their brains may have rewired to enhance social and emotional intelligence.

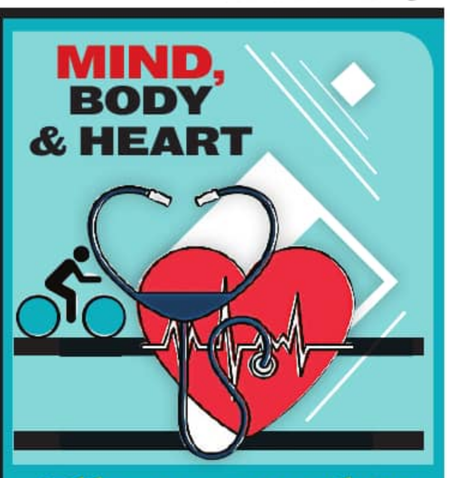
Clues come from a Russian fox domestication experiment. Foxes bred for tameness showed increased grey matter in regions related to emotion and reward.

These results challenge the assumption that domestication makes animals less intelligent. Instead, breeding animals to be friendly and social can enhance the brain pathways that help them form bonds. In dogs, thousands of years living as our companions have fine-tuned brain pathways for reading human social signals. While your dog's brain may be smaller than a wolf's, it may be uniquely optimised to love and understand humans.

Dogs probably aren't pondering why you're upset or realising that you have distinct thoughts and intentions. Instead, they excel at picking up on what you're projecting and respond accordingly.

So dogs may not be able to read our minds, but by reading our behaviour and feelings, they meet us emotionally in a way few other animals can. In our hectic modern world, that cross-species empathy is not just endearing; it's evolutionary and socially meaningful.

(By Laura Elin Pigott, London South Bank University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Oil for split ends

1. Argan Oil
Known as 'liquid gold,' argan oil is rich in essential fatty acids and vitamin E. This lightweight oil deeply moisturises dry hair shafts without weighing them down. It forms a protective layer around each strand, reducing breakage and sealing split ends. The antioxidants in argan oil also fight oxidative stress caused by heat styling, pollution, and UV exposure, keeping your hair resilient and glossy.

2. Coconut Oil
Coconut Oil is a true multitasker in the world of hair care, and one of the rare oils that can actually penetrate the hair shaft rather than just coating it. Thanks to its high content of lauric acid, a medium-chain fatty acid with a low molecular weight, coconut oil binds easily to hair proteins, reducing protein loss and strengthening strands from within.

3. Olive Oil
Olive oil's rich, thick texture makes it ideal for those with coarse, dry, or chemically treated hair that's prone to frizz and breakage. Over time, consistent use can restore shine, softness, and resilience to stressed-out strands.

4. Jojoba Oil
Jojoba oil closely mimics the natural sebum produced by our scalp, making it one of the most compatible oils for human hair. This lightweight, non-greasy oil forms a protective barrier on the hair shaft, sealing in moisture while still allowing the strand to breathe. It's especially beneficial for dry, brittle, or color-treated ends that are prone to splitting.

5. Avocado Oil
Avocado oil deeply nourishes dry ends and improves elasticity, helping reduce splits and snapping. One standout benefit? It offers natural UV protection, shielding your strands from sun exposure.

–Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Age 50 might be inflexion point after which ageing accelerates

Analysing samples of human tissues across five decades, researchers have found that age 50 might be an inflexion point, after which ageing accelerates -- blood vessels age early and are markedly vulnerable, they said.

The findings, published in the journal Cell, add to evidence emerging from analysing proteins from humans to understand ageing processes, researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences said.

A study published last year in August in the journal Nature Ageing showed that ages 44 and 60 might be when a human body experiences changes in molecules and microbes, significantly impacting heart and immune function.

The 'Cell' study looked at over 500 samples from 13 human tissues taken from organs across the body's systems, including the cardiovascular, immune and digestive. Proteomics, or a large-scale study of proteins, was applied to examine the samples that had aged over a period of 50 years.

Results "revealed an ageing inflexion around age 50, with blood vessels being a tissue that ages early and is markedly susceptible to ageing."

Further, based on changes in the proteins due to ageing, the authors have developed protein-based age clocks and charted the ageing trajectories of varied organs. The findings also highlighted an early and pronounced ageing of the aorta -- a major artery that carries blood from the heart to branch arteries -- which the authors said was critical to the ageing of blood vessels and in initiating ageing across the body by interacting with other organs and blood.

"We introduce protein-based ageing clocks and dynamic ageing trajectories for human organs, illuminating their biological age and disease risks," the team wrote.

They added, "Our study highlights the early and pronounced ageing of the aorta, underscoring the critical role of vascular senescence in initiating systemic ageing through its extensive interactions with other organs and blood components."

–PTI

National Awards: Kannada cinema shines Award for Best Script: Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know... penned by Chidananda Naik; Best Kannada Film Kandeelu – The Ray of Hope

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GRATEFUL FOR SUPPORT

Vaani Kapoor explains how she manages to pick and choose roles

In an age when actors are constantly chasing visibility, Vaani Kapoor stands out for doing just the opposite. With just over a dozen titles like Shuddh Desi Romance, Befikre, Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui, Raid 2 to her name in a career that spans more than a decade, Vaani has opted for quality over quantity—strategically choosing roles that challenge her, excite her, and help her grow.

Her latest outing, Mandala Murders, marks her OTT debut and might just be one of her most transformative performances yet.

Looking at her filmography, it's easy to wonder why an actor of Vaani's caliber hasn't done more films. But for her, the answer is simple: she's deliberate, not hesitant. "Whatever has come my way, I have tried to pick the best out of that lot. It's not easy. It's not like I'm waking up with the best filmmakers sending me their scripts. You have to earn it. No matter what people say, I find myself very lucky. I'm grateful that a studio like Yash Raj Films backed me. But even then, I had to audition and prove my worth. They only chose me after multiple auditions. My journey hasn't been very easy. I have made very little money. I support myself, I support my family. One can always feel selfish and say, 'Let's do it for the money.' But I'm lucky—my family has never burdened me with that pressure. Nobody's said, 'Do this because we need you to.' I'm very grateful to the support system I have, whether it's my family or my agency. When it comes to picking films, that's one thing I don't want to compromise on, I will work more with brands and endorsements etc. "

–Jigar Shah, ETimes

'Marriage requires daily effort'

Actress Sonali Bendre has shared her mantra to a successful marriage. She said that both partners need to work on their relationship as it requires daily effort and should never be taken for granted.

Asked Sonali, who has been happily married for over two decades to filmmaker Goldie Behl, about the advice she would like to give young couples, Sonali told IANS: "I don't think anyone can really advise youngsters, and those who try usually fail. They believe they know everything. They have Google, ChatGPT—every answer is at their fingertips."

Decoding the key to a perfect marriage, she said: "Marriage, according to me, is something that requires daily effort. It should never be taken for granted. Both partners need to work on it. Mutual respect is essential."

For Sonali, marriage is a partnership of equality. "Not that we have to be equal in everything, but our strengths should complement each other. We divide responsibilities accordingly. Marriage is about supporting each other and, ultimately, about growing old together."

– IANS

Working with legends

Actress Shruti Haasan, who has worked alongside two film industry legends -- Rajinikanth and Nagarjuna -- in director Lokesh Kanakaraj's upcoming action entertainer 'Coolie' -- says that the experience of working with them was inspiring. The actress and singer recently opened up about her experience of working with two of the biggest names in Indian cinema. While one might assume the presence of such legends on set would create pressure, Shruti said the experience was anything but that.

"It was really inspiring. It was amazing. It was such a great learning experience to be around so many actors in the beginning. I like to still be nervous about what I'm going to learn and what my experiences are going to be. But definitely, overall it was amazing to have interactions with so many great legends," she shared.

Shruti emphasized that the energy on set wasn't intimidating—it was uplifting.

–IANS

Look who Ali Fazal ran into

Actor Ali Fazal had a star-studded encounter when he ran into Hollywood star Pedro Pascal during a recent flight.

Fazal shared a candid selfie with Pascal, who currently headlines Marvel Studios' blockbuster movie "The Fantastic Four: First Steps", on his official Instagram page.

The photo shows the two actors smiling for the camera in what appears to be the cabin of a commercial flight.

In the caption, the 38-year-old actor posted a number of emojis and summed it up, saying, "Shhhhhh..."

Fazal's post sent fans into a frenzy. "OMG," wrote one fan in the comments section, while another posted, "My God lucky u Ali." "Oh myyyyy!! Pedro-Fazal," read a comment.

One fan posted, "Reed Richards and Guddu Bhaiya", referring to Fazal and Pascal's characters in the "Mirzapur" and "The Fantastic Four", respectively.

Fazal is no stranger to Hollywood, having appeared in a string of international projects including "Furious 7", "Victoria & Abdul" opposite Judi Dench, and Kenneth Branagh's "Death on the Nile".

–PTI

Violent, racy tale

ELTUU MUTHAA (KANNADA)

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Raa Surya
- **ACTORS** Shaurya Prathapa, Raa Surya, Priyanka Malali, Naveen D Padil, Cockroach Sudhir, Ruhan Arya, and Ram Devanagari.
- **Duration** 134 minutes
- **Certification** A

With Eltuu Muthaa, director Raa Surya debuts not only as a director but also as an actor in Sandalwood. It is said that Eltuu Muthaa is based on a real story. It revolves around two characters – Eltuu and Muthaa. Raa Surya plays Eltuu while Shaurya Prathapa plays Muthaa in this movie shot in Madikeri. The director has shown the lifestyle of people, who play dhol during funerals. It also highlights the innocence and dedication of such people and also how some greedy, lustful alcoholics exploit them.

The movie begins at a police station where Eltuu from Nelaji village narrates the story of Muthaa and how the latter killed nine people for the sake of a conch. The next scene is a funeral where Muthaa is engaged to play the dhol under the supervision of Babani (Naveen D Padil), the self-proclaimed manager of the dhol team. Eltuu is a flower vendor who supplies flowers to funerals. Babani and his team are on the way to a temple to get prasada. Babani asks Muthaa to take a bath before entering into the temple. Mutha, while bathing in the river, finds a conch. He comes to know that the conch has magical properties. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Muthaa and why he kills nine people.

Raa Surya has tried to keep audiences happy with a mix of all elements, including romantic scenes and an item song. However, he failed to keep the screenplay crisp. Most of the scenes are scary and gory. The director, perhaps following the alleged true story, failed to realise the importance of breaking the monotonous narration by including a few comedy scenes.

Shaurya Prathapa has acted well. Cockroach Sudhir and Ram Devanagari are convincing as vicious villains. It is worth a watch if you don't mind the violence.

–Y Maheswara Reddy

mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
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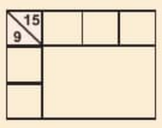
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

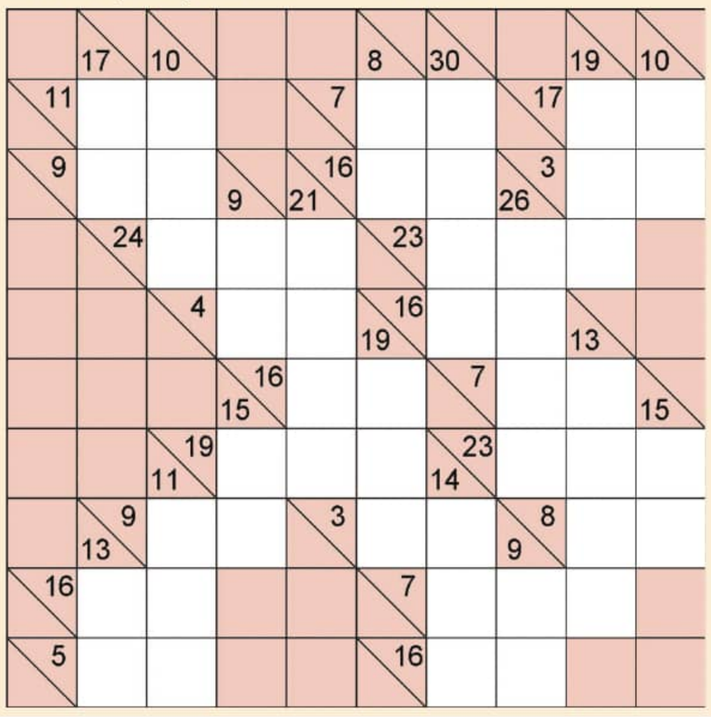
Bus A has 20 seats less than Bus B. If together they have 50 seats then Bus B has how many seats?

Kakuro

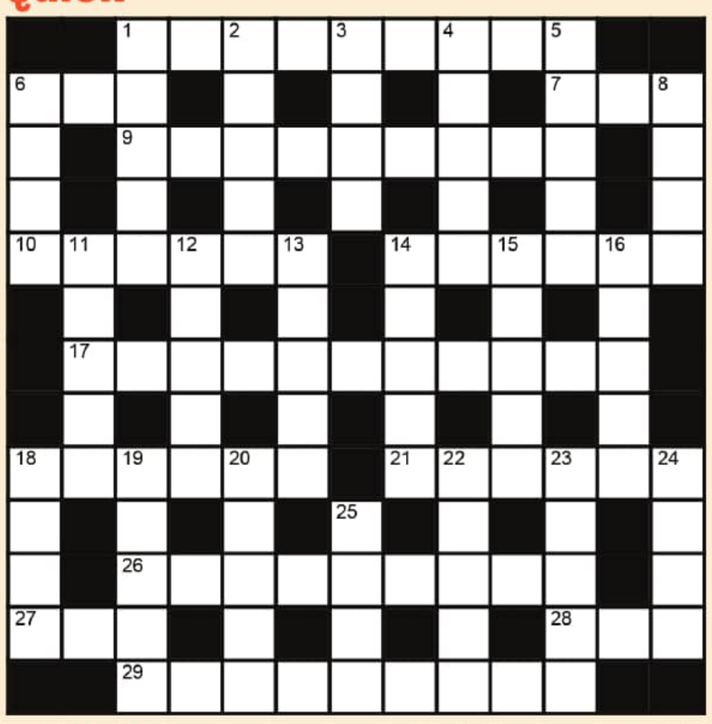
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Did (9)
6 Spoil (3)
7 Outer as a prefix ? (3)
9 Everybody, none excluded? (3,3,3)
10 Discomfiture (6)
14 Sacred or holy (6)
17 Liberating, releasing or emancipating (7,4)
18 Red wine (6)
21 Tolerates or puts up with (6)
26 Residential area located between Hosur Road and Sarjapur Road (3,6)
27 Prefix meaning equal (3)
28 Poultry farm product (3)
29 Mementos (9)

DOWN

1 Ordinary writing (5)
2 Staggers (5)
3 Prefix for ever present (4)
4 Florida city (5)
5 New ___ : our capital? (5)
6 Bill of fare (4)
8 In the past (4)
11 Of the nose (5)
12 Place for sacrifice (5)
13 Force out (5)
14 Religious doctrine (5)
15 Famous Italian composer (5)
16 Is she her uncle's favourite person? (5)
18 202 in Roman numerals (4)
19 Ex-India batsman Mankad (5)
20 Very strange (5)
22 Small stream (5)
23 ___ on : is excessively fond of? (5)
24 Polluted air (4)
25 Pubs (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS G

DZ GRCCAK IZGAPZ DTRK DZ CZZX KA IZ IQ EZPRUCUCH DTRK DZ REZ.

Linemaro

I value my breath, so it would be nice if you didn't take it away every time you walked by

Mindchow

If criticism is untrue, disregard it; if unfair, keep from irritation; if it is ignorant, smile; if it is justified, it is not criticism, learn from it

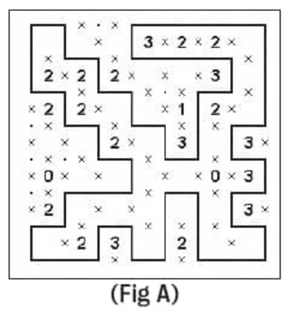
Joke of the day

When your children are teenagers, it's important to have a dog so that someone in the house is happy to see you

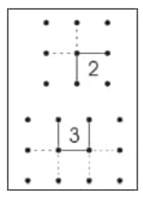
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

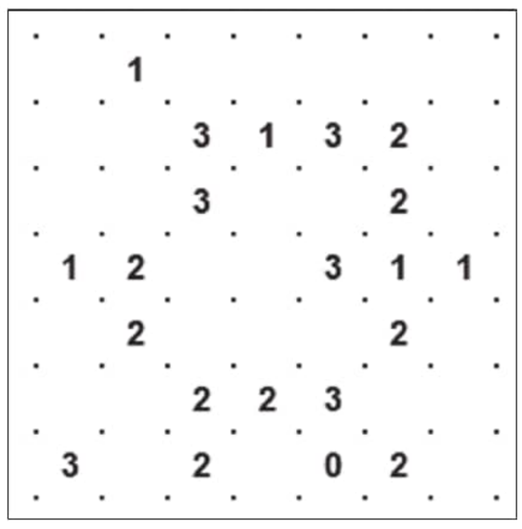


(Fig B) Not Allowed

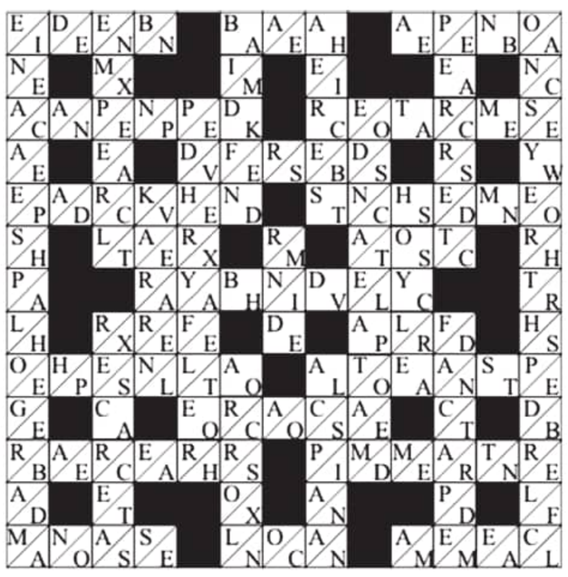
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



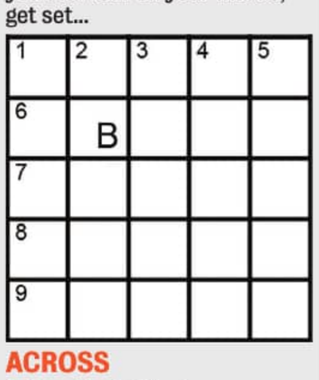
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

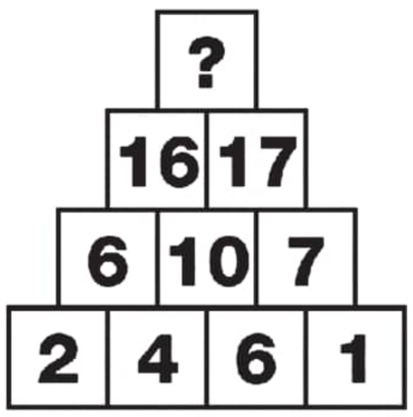
1 Condo; 6 Ale be; 7 We rod; 8 L Band; 9 Styx I

DOWN

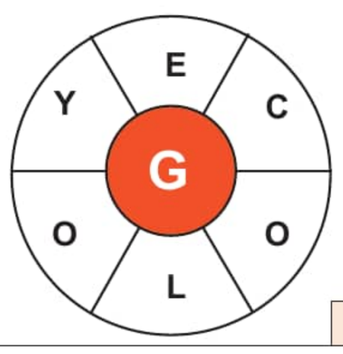
1 Crabs; 2 I Lobo; 3 Waxed; 4 Lento; 5 N dyed

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **06** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		1	9		4	6		
	4						5	
		7	5		8	3		
	1	6	2		9	4	7	
	5	8	4		7	1	9	
		3	1		5	2		
	6						4	
		4	6		3	7		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 10

4 5 5 6

Medium = 20

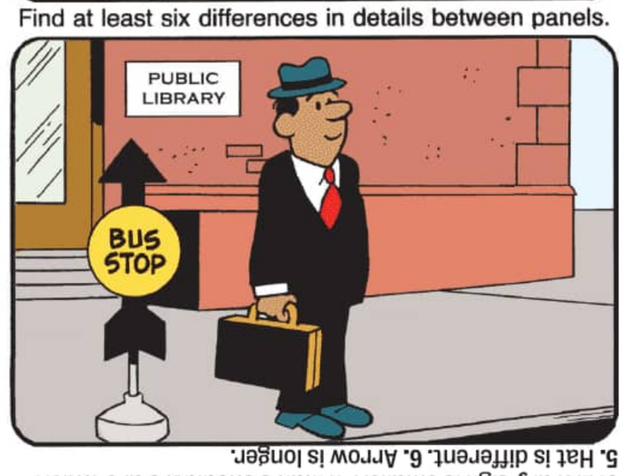
2 2 3 9

Hard = 17

1 3 5 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



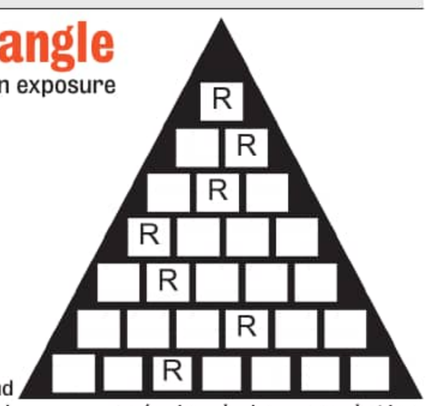
Differences: 1. Building is not as wide. 2. Brick is missing. 3. Library sign is smaller. 4. Man's shoulders are wider. 5. Hat is different. 6. Arrow is longer.

Riddler

What do these four things have in common?
Clock, Mattress, Mousetrap & Trampoline

Alpha triangle

1 A unit of radiation exposure
2 Senior, abbr.
3 Day divs.
4 Hurry
5 Brief contact
6 Arrogance
7 Polish



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

THE OL' SEA HAG MUST HAVE SENT THAT LIGHTNING AGAINST US!
THAT MEANS IT'S THE PROFESSOR'S TURN!
I WON'ERS WHAT HE WILL TRY TO DESTROY US WIT'?
WOTASNOZZLE SUPER-TRACKING ROCKET
11-5
popeye.com
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Bizarrotrip

He confessed to jaywalking but refuses to offer a motive.
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Wayno & Piraro 4.26.25

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

THIS FACE WASH FEELS NICE, BUT WHY ISN'T IT WORKING YET?
"SEE RESULTS IN AS LITTLE AS TWO WEEKS?!"
NEW! ACNE GONE
I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS FOR TWO WEEKS!
TECHNICALLY YOU'LL BE DEALING WITH IT FOR THE NEXT FORTY YEARS!
THANKS, MOM!!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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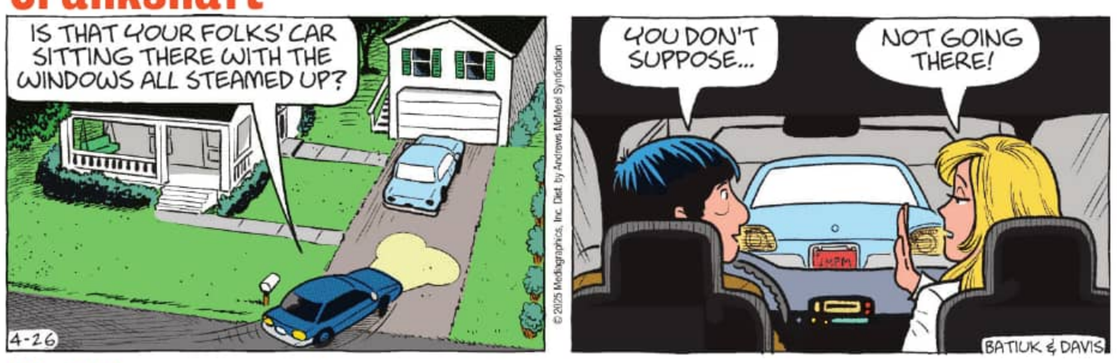
Crankshaft


IS THAT YOUR FOLKS' CAR SITTING THERE WITH THE WINDOWS ALL STEAMED UP?
YOU DON'T SUPPOSE...
NOT GOING THERE!
4-26
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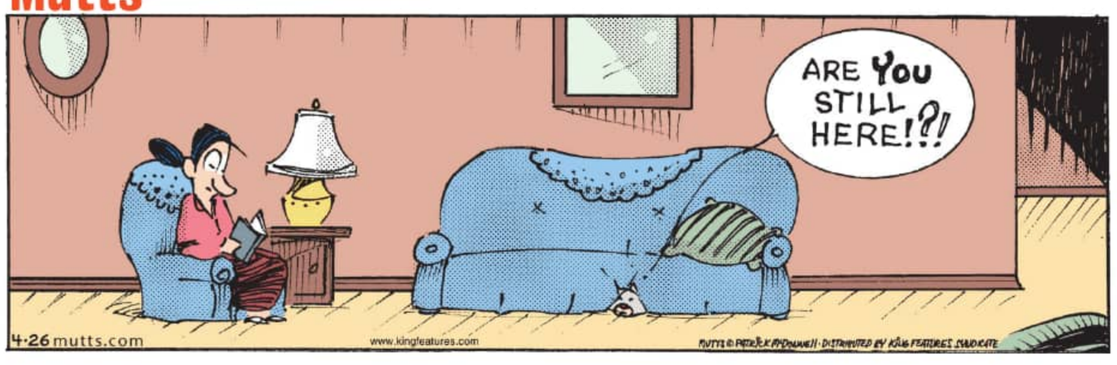
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You may feel low on energy today, with minor health issues disrupting your routine. A sense of unexplained fear or anxiety could make you emotionally sensitive. Avoid reckless driving or adventurous activities. You may feel drawn to spirituality or the occult. Visiting a religious place or engaging in prayer or chanting may bring peace and clarity.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Joyful moments with family are likely. Romantic time with your spouse will strengthen understanding. You may invest in home decor or upgrades. Social events and celebrations could be on the agenda. However, if you're considering investing in property or fixed assets, review all documents carefully before proceeding

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You're likely to feel enthusiastic and confident. Self-exploration may help you tackle challenges boldly. Despite high energy, be patient in making financial decisions, especially in business. Romantic relationships will flourish, with lovebirds enjoying harmony and connection

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
It's a motivating and productive day. Use your enthusiasm wisely, and practice self-regulation. Communication skills will help you resolve issues, improving your reputation. Consider higher education for career growth, but avoid speculative investments.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Balancing personal and professional life may be tough. Avoid ego-driven behavior, especially with your spouse, as it could strain bonds. Partnership problems may begin to resolve. Singles should avoid hasty marriage decisions. Patience will help you manage complex situations effectively.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Your business plans are likely to succeed, supported by subordinates. Social or family gatherings could help grow your network. A short business trip may bring promising results in the near future.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Financial gains from previous investments are likely. Spending will be managed wisely, boosting your savings. Romantic partners should communicate gently to avoid unnecessary misunderstandings

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may focus on issues involving siblings or close relatives. A new venture supported by family and your network may be on the horizon. Smart work could bring practical short-term gains. A new project or order may help expand a family business.

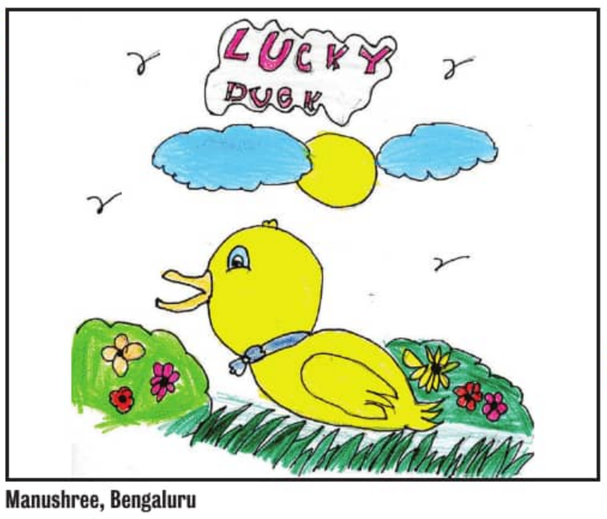
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
An emotionally challenging day. Negative thoughts and impatience may cloud your judgment. Arrogance could hinder wise decision-making. Seek elders' guidance to regain clarity. Avoid investing in unproductive assets. Couples should avoid arguments over trivial issues.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Your focus may feel scattered early in the day. However, with elders' blessings, you'll regain clarity and control. Income may increase, and past losses could turn into gains, improving your finances.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A new order or opportunity from a client may enhance your business cash flow. Meeting a powerful individual could expand your ventures. A stronger rapport with your boss may lead to promotions. Your social prestige is also likely to rise.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Elders' blessings may bring calm and patience. A peaceful mindset will help you navigate the day with ease. You might visit a spiritual place or make donations for religious purposes. International travel opportunities for work or education could emerge.

KIDZONE



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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
A+B=50
A=B-20
A-B=-20
2A=30
A=15
B=35
Buss B has 35 seats.

BULL'S EYE
clog, ECOLOGY, ogle, gooey, loge, logo,

RIDDLER
They all have springs

FAST FIVE

C	O	D	O	N
A	B	E	L	E
R	O	W	E	D
B	L	A	N	D
S	I	X	T	Y

STRIKE OUT

M	O	S	S		N	O	N		M	E	A	L		
A		T		O		A		D		L				
R	A	C	E	R	S		I	D	E	A	T	E		
G		A		E	R	A	S	E		C		B		
O	P	E	N	T	O		A	T	E	A	S	E		
L		R	E	F		D		A	L	F		H		
A		R	A	B	I	D	L	Y				T		
H		T	A	R		R		A	O	C		R		
P	A	C	K	E	D		S	C	H	E	M	E		
E		E		V	E	R	B	S		S		W		
C	A	P	P	E	D		R	E	A	R	M	S		
N		X		I		E		A		N				
E	D	E	N		B	A	H		A	P	N	A	L	

QUICK

				S				K	E	E	P	S	A	K
			I	S	O			I		O		R		O
		I		H	S	R	L	A	Y	O	U	T		O
		C		S			E		B		R	O		M
	C	L	A	R	E	T		A	B	I	D	E	S	
		S	E	T	T	I	N	G		F	R	E	E	
		A		L		V		O		E		I		
	U	N	E	A	S	E		D	I	V	I	N	E	
	N		S		L		I		M		H		C	
	E	O	N	E	A	N	D	A	L	L		N		
	M	A	R		E		M		I		E	X	O	
		P	E	R	F	O	R	M	E	D				

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Sr, Hrs, Rush, Brush, Hubris, Burnish.

SUDOKU

5	3	1	9	2	4	6	8	7
8	4	2	3	7	6	9	5	1
6	9	7	5	1	8	3	2	4
3	1	6	2	5	9	4	7	8
4	7	9	8	6	1	5	3	2
2	5	8	4	3	7	1	9	6
7	8	3	1	4	5	2	6	9
1	6	5	7	9	2	8	4	3
9	2	4	6	8	3	7	1	5

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 4 + 5 − 5 = 10
Medium
3 + 9 − 2 × 2 = 20
Hard
3 + 5 + 9 / 1 = 17

MENSA PUZZLE
33. Starting with numbers on the bottom row, add numbers in adjacent boxes together, and put the result in the box directly above. Continue in this way, up the triangle.

QUOTE UNCODE
We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are.

LOOP

KAKURO

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